

# CASPER

## Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response

### A simple, flexible way to get information – fast



The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) is a type of household survey designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide information about a community, allowing public health and emergency managers to make informed decisions.

CASPER is *quick, inexpensive, flexible*, and uses a *simple* reporting format.

### A valid and reliable methodology

CASPER uses a two-stage cluster sampling methodology. Thirty clusters (e.g. census blocks) are selected, then 7 households are interviewed from each cluster.

### Useful in a variety of settings

CASPER can be used during disasters and in non-disaster settings.

- Gathering information during all phases of a disaster, including the preparedness, response, and recovery phases.
- Obtaining household-level information in non-disaster situations, such as learning about household health status, including chronic health conditions.
- Assessing community knowledge about emerging infectious diseases, like Zika and H1N1.
- Learning about community awareness, opinions, and concerns about important public health subjects such as healthy homes, new coal gasification plants, community health, and radiation emergency preparedness.

#### *How are CASPERs used in disaster settings?*

**Preparedness:** focus on evacuation and household readiness plans, communications, and other information to tailor local emergency plans

**Response:** focus on the community's immediate needs and general health status

**Recovery:** assess long term and ongoing needs and can evaluate response efforts

### Used across the United States

CASPERs have been conducted throughout the United States. View CDC's interactive map at

[http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper/casper\\_map.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper/casper_map.htm)

### CASPERs provide needed answers for health departments to move forward

Information gathered from disaster-related CASPERs can help emergency managers make informed decisions, allocate scarce resources, respond to specific needs in the population, provide credible information to the news media to dispel rumors, support the need for funding for recovery efforts, and plan for future disasters.

CASPER data have also been used to target communication messages and community education programs, provide justification for grant proposals, and focus future research.

### Where do I find more information about CASPER?

For more information on CASPER, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper/default.htm> or contact the CDC Health Studies Branch at 770.488.3403.

